PIA3109: APPROACHES IN POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Effective Term

Semester B 2022/23

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Approaches in Political Analysis

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

3109

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

SA3109 Approaches in Political Analysis / POL3109 Approaches in Political Analysis

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to equip students with knowledge of the debates on how political issues and institutions are analysed. Students will examine the building blocks and controversies of these major perspectives for understanding politics, and critically review their respective strengths and limitations through an application to a real political question.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Acquire a good idea of the plurality and diversity of analytical perspectives and frameworks in understanding political development and human behaviour	20	x	x	
2	Understand the logic, assumptions, strengths and limitations of the selected approaches to political analysis, independently and relative to each other	40	x	x	x
3	Explore the utility and relative merit and problems of different approaches.	20	x	x	x
4	Develop research, writing and communication skills	20	x	x	x

A1: Attitude
Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability
Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments
Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

	TLAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures and class discussion	To acquire knowledge of the concepts and theories and the skills to put the concepts and theories to use in political analysis.	1, 2, 3	
2	Individual paper	Students write an individual paper of about 2000 words. To deepen understanding and foster reflection of the topic; train writing skills.	1, 2, 4	

3	Group submission	To deepen understanding of the theories; apply theories to empirical analysis. Discover the utility and value of theories for empirical and practical analysis and problem solving; research and group work skills. Formulation and submission of group analytical paper on an agreed empirical topic.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Class Participation	1, 2, 3, 4	10	
2	Individual paper	1, 2, 3	50	
3	Group submission	2, 3, 4	40	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Individual paper and group submission

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent knowledge of the plurality and diversity of analytical perspectives and frameworks in understanding political development and human behaviour. Understanding of the logic, assumptions, strengths and limitations of the selected approaches to political analysis, independently and relative to each other. Developing research, writing and communication skills, and in particular how to formulate a research proposal.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Very good knowledge of the plurality and diversity of analytical perspectives and frameworks in understanding political development and human behaviour. Understanding of the logic, assumptions, strengths and limitations of the selected approaches to political analysis, independently and relative to each other. Developing research, writing and communication skills, and in particular how to formulate a research proposal.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Rudimentary knowledge of the plurality and diversity of analytical perspectives and frameworks in understanding political development and human behaviour. Understanding of the logic, assumptions, strengths and limitations of the selected approaches to political analysis, independently and relative to each other. Developing research, writing and communication skills, and in particular how to formulate a research proposal.

Marginal (D)

Poor understanding of the plurality and diversity of analytical perspectives and frameworks in understanding political development and human behaviour. Understanding of the logic, assumptions, strengths and limitations of the selected approaches to political analysis, independently and relative to each other. Developing research, writing and communication skills, and in particular how to formulate a research proposal.

Failure (F)

Almost no knowledge of the plurality and diversity of analytical perspectives and frameworks in understanding political development and human behaviour. Understanding of the logic, assumptions, strengths and limitations of the selected approaches to political analysis, independently and relative to each other. Developing research, writing and communication skills, and in particular how to formulate a research proposal.

Assessment Task

Participation

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Frequent, very high quality contributions to class discussion. Demonstration of excellent understanding of the plurality and diversity of analytical perspectives and frameworks in understanding political development and human behaviour. Excellent ability to orally apply analytical theories to various case studies.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Fairly frequent, high quality contributions to class discussion. Demonstration of very good understanding of the plurality and diversity of analytical perspectives and frameworks in understanding political development and human behaviour. Very good ability to orally apply analytical theories to various case studies.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Infrequent, but adequate quality contributions to class discussion. Demonstration of adequate understanding of the plurality and diversity of analytical perspectives and frameworks in understanding political development and human behaviour. Adequate ability to orally apply analytical theories to various case studies.

Marginal (D)

Minimal and low quality contributions to class discussion. Demonstration of poor understanding of the plurality and diversity of analytical perspectives and frameworks in understanding political development and human behaviour. Poor ability to orally apply analytical theories to various case studies.

Failure (F)

No contribution to class discussion. Failure to demonstrate any understanding of the plurality and diversity of analytical perspectives and frameworks in understanding political development and human behaviour. Failure to orally apply analytical theories to various case studies.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Rational choice, institutions, culture, state, actors, collective action, history, structure and agency, actor-network theory, theory and real-life challenges.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Hugh Ward, "Rational Choice", in Marsh and Stoker (eds.), 2002, Theory and Methods in Political Science, 2nd edition, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, ch.3.
2	J. J. Mansbridge, "The Rise and Fall of Self-interest in the Explanation of Political Life", in her Beyond Self Interest Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990.
3	Marc Howard Ross, "Culture and Identity in Comparative Political Analysis", in Lane Crothers & Charles Lockhart (eds.) Culture and Politics: A Reader, ch.3.

4	Jasper, James M., "Culture, Knowledge, Politics", in Thomas Janoski et al. (eds.) The handbook of Political Sociology. States, Civil Societies and Globalization, New York: Cambridge University.
5	Heclo, H., 2008, On Thinking Institutionally, Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers. Ch 3 pp 45-79.
6	Ellen Immergut, 1988, "The theoretical core of the new institutionalism", Politics and Society, 26 (1), 1998: 5- 34.
7	Alford, R.R. and Friedland, R., 1985, Powers of theory. Capitalism, the state, and democracy, New York: Cambridge University, ch.12 and 15.
8	Jessop, Bob, 2012, "Developments in Marxist Theory", in E. Amenta, K. Nash, A. Scott, eds, The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology, Oxford: Blackwell, 3-14.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Nil